

PAFF Reception Remarks

June 21, 2011

The United States and Poland are working together to support a variety of internship opportunities aimed at providing educational experiences for Polish students and professionals early in their careers. The programs seek out individuals who have demonstrated outstanding ability and commitment, and who want to gain substantive work experience at companies and institutions in the U.S.

During their internships, these young leaders build relationships with counterparts in the U.S. and set the stage for future collaboration. Like other exchanges programs, these internships also provide opportunities to gain exposure to US culture and values, and advance our common interests.

The U.S. Embassy in Warsaw enthusiastically supports the educational activities of the non-governmental organization, the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (PAFF).

U.S. corporate sponsors GE Hitachi, Westinghouse Electric Company, and Pittsburgh Glass Works are hosting 21 Polish summer interns in 2011. We hope to at least double that number in 2012.

Participating U.S. companies contribute to the success of an important US-Polish initiative. It would also provide an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a student who has already demonstrated outstanding abilities and commitment.

In anticipation of recruiting for 2012, we learned that the best students line-up their summer activities before the end of the

prior year. Because there are a lot of competing European programs, we are already looking at getting US host companies to procure commitments early this fall.

The U.S. Embassy Warsaw has prepared a letter to send to over 100 U.S. firms asking them to host Polish interns in 2012. PAFF recruitment documents will be enclosed with the letter.